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INFO RUFHGL/AMCONSUL LENINGRAD 3608  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11090  
MADRID FOR USDEL CSCE  
E. O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: SHUM, UR, US  
SUBJECT: ETHNIC GERMAN PENTECOSTALS PLAN HUNGER STRIKE

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REF: MOSCOW 10895(NOTAL)

## 1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: DURING THEIR STAY IN MOSCOW, THREE MEMBERS OF CODEL PELL MET WITH EIGHT PENTECOSTAL REFUSENIKS AND DISCUSSED WITH THEM THE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS FACED BY FUNDAMENTALIST CHRISTIANS IN THE SOVIET UNION. THE SENATORS WERE INFORMED THAT A GROUP INCLUDING 49 ETHNIC GERMAN PENTECOSTALS FROM THE SOVIET FAR EAST PLANS A TEN DAY HUNGER STRIKE COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 5. TEXT OF THE STRIKERS' APPEAL IS CONTAINED PARA 6. END SUMMARY.

3. IN ADDITION TO MEETINGS DESCRIBED REFTEL SENATORS SARBANES, SASSER AND BUMPERS MET WITH 8 REFUSENIK PENTECOSTALS AND 3 REFUSENIK JEWS AT THE HOME OF MOSCOW PENTECOSTAL LYDIA STASKEVICH (PROTECT) ON AUGUST 20. THE MEETING INCLUDED PENTECOSTALS FROM MOSCOW, LENINGRAD, AND NAKHODKA (SOVIET FAR EAST). THE PENTECOSTALS OUTLINED SOME OF THE PROBLEMS THEY FACE AS CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALISTS IN AN ATHEIST STATE. WHILE THERE IS, FOR EXAMPLE, A CHURCH BUILDING AT THEIR DISPOSAL OUTSIDE OF MOSCOW, IT IS EXTREMELY SMALL AND TIGHTLY CONTROLLED BY THE STATE. CONSEQUENTLY, MOST CHURCH SERVICES ARE HELD IN PRIVATE HOMES, DESPITE FREQUENT RAIDS BY THE MILITIA. THE FINE FOR ATTENDING AN ILLEGAL SERVICE STARTS AT FORTY ROUBLES, WHICH REPRESENTS NEARLY ONE MONTH'S PENSION FOR THE ELDERLY AND UP TO 50 PERCENT OF A YOUNG UNSKILLED WORKER'S MONTHLY WAGES.

4. EACH INDIVIDUAL RELATED HIS OWN PARTICULAR EXPERIENCES - HOUSE SEARCHES, BEATINGS, ARRESTS, ETC. ONE PENTECOSTAL, FOR EXAMPLE, SAID HIS BROTHER WAS ARRESTED AND BEATEN

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FOR TRYING TO ENTER THE AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL IN LENINGRAD. ANOTHER, A RESIDENT OF NAKHODKA, PRIMORSKIY KRAY, DESCRIBED THE PLIGHT OF A COMMUNITY OF APPROXIMATELY 260 PENTECOSTALS IN NAKHODKA, ABOUT FIFTY OF WHOM UN-SUCCESSFULLY APPLIED TO EMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE LATE 1970'S. THEIR GROUP HAS BEEN DENOUNCED IN THE LOCAL PRESS FOR "IMMORAL BEHAVIOR" AND "FASCINATION WITH THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE." THE NAKHODKA RESIDENT FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT FORTY-NINE OF THIS GROUP WERE ETHNIC GERMANS, AND THAT THEY, TOGETHER WITH SEVERAL OTHER FAMILIES, PLAN A 10-DAY HUNGER STRIKE COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 5 TO PROTEST THEIR PERSECUTION AND DENIAL OF THE RIGHT TO EMIGRATE. A COPY OF THE HUNGER-STRIKERS' APPEAL TO THE SOVIET AND FRG GOVERNMENTS, TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, TO MADRID CSCE PARTICIPANTS, AND TO THE MEDIA (INFORMAL TRANSLATION IN PARA 6) WAS EARLIER GIVEN TO EMBASSY HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER.

5. COMMENT: ON DEPARTURE, THE SENATORS NOTED THAT THE BUILDING IN WHICH THE MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE SEEMED TO BE CLOSELY WATCHED BY MILITIA AND OTHERS LINGERING AROUND THE ENTRANCE--IN MARKED CONTRAST TO EARLIER MEETINGS DESCRIBED REFTEL.

6. BEGIN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF HUNGER STRIKERS APPEAL:

--- TO THE GOVT OF THE FRG  
 --- TO THE GOVT OF THE USSR  
 --- TO THE UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
 --- TO THE DELEGATES OF THE MADRID CSCE CONFERENCE  
 --- TO ALL INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA

--- AN APPEAL

-- WE, RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE OF CHUGUEVKA, PRIMORSKIY KRAY, USSR, TURN TO ALL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH AN APPEAL FOR HELP AND SUPPORT.

-- WE ARE CHRISTIAN PENTECOSTALISTS, PETITIONING TO LEAVE THE USSR, AND EXPERIENCING CONSTANT REPRESSION BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES. STARTING IN THE LAST HALF OF 1982, FOR CONDUCTING RELIGIOUS MEETINGS, BELIEVERS WERE FINED A TOTAL (COLLECTIVE) SUM OF MORE THAN 4000 RUBLES, ARRESTED AND IMPRISONED FOR MORE THAN 220 DAYS. FOR CONDUCTING ONLY ONE SERVICE, BELIEVERS WERE FINED 500 RUBLES, 6 PEOPLE WERE ARRESTED, EACH FOR 15 DAYS;

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SEVERAL BELIEVERS WERE TRIED 6-9 TIMES IN ONLY ONE YEAR.

-- AT THE END OF MARCH 1983, AFTER SOVIET AUTHORITIES STARTED THREATENING TO DEPRIVE US OF PARENTAL RIGHTS, WE SENT OUR SOVIET PASSPORTS TO THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR WITH A REQUEST TO GIVE UP SOVIET CITIZENSHIP AND A PETITION TO GO TO THE FRG (MOST OF US ARE GERMANS BY NATIONALITY). IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW, EACH ADULT PAID 50 R TO HAVE HIS PETITION EXAMINED.

-- ON JUNE 14, 1983, A COMMISSION CAME TO OUR VILLAGE, HEADED BY THE DIRECTOR OF OVIR OF THE PRIMORSKIY KRAY, COL. SPIRIN. THE COLONEL BROUGHT THE PASSPORTS AND DEMANDED THAT THE BELIEVERS TAKE THEM BACK. ALL THE BELIEVERS REFUSED TO TAKE THE PASSPORTS UNTIL THEIR REQUEST WAS GRANTED. COL. SPIRIN THEN SAID, IN THESE

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WORDS: "THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR DID NOT EXAMINE YOUR REQUEST, RATHER THEY SENT ALL DOCUMENTS TO US IN THE KRAY. AND I THREW OUT YOUR STATEMENTS AND RECEIPTS, AND INSTEAD OF THE FRG, YOU'LL GO TO THE NOOSE . . . "

-- ON JULY 18 COL. SPIRIN SENT FROM VLADIVOSTOK TO THE PASSPORT OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE OF CHUGUEVKA A WRITTEN NOTICE THAT THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR REFUSED OUR REQUEST TO DROP SOVIET CITIZENSHIP AND TO GO TO THE FRG.

-- AS A SYMBOL OF PROTEST AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR, WE BELIEVERS OF THE VILLAGE OF CHUGUEVKA ANNOUNCE A HUNGER STRIKE, TO TAKE PLACE SEPTEMBER 5-15, IN WHICH WILL PARTICIPATE:

-- 23 MEN AND YOUTHS (FAST FOR 10 DAYS)  
-- 13 WOMEN AND GIRLS (FAST FOR 5 DAYS)  
-- 16 NURSING MOTHERS AND PREGNANT WOMEN (3 DAYS)  
-- 20 CHILDREN, AGES 7-12 (1 DAY).

-- THREE FAMILIES FROM NAKHODKA WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE HUNGER STRIKE, WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF CHUGUEVKA, WHO ALSO GAVE IN THEIR PASSPORTS WITH A STATEMENT TO DROP SOVIET CITIZENSHIP AND RECEIVED A DENIAL. THEY'VE BEEN TRYING TO LEAVE THE USSR FOR THE U.S. SINCE 1977. WE APPEAL TO WORLD SOCIETY TO SUPPORT OUR LAWFUL PETITION. END TEXT.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT, INCLUDING COMPLETE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IS BEING POUCHED TO EUR/SOV.

7. THIS MESSAGE HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH CODEL.  
ZIMMERMANN  
END OF MESSAGE

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